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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

BUDINGER ET AL.

Atty. Ref.: 839-1497; Confirmation No. 2833

Appl. No. 10/731,115

TC/A.U. 1746

Filed: December 10, 2003

Examiner: B. S. Carrillo

For: METHODS OF HYDROGEN CLEANING OF METALLIC SURFACES

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January 7, 2008

**MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**COMMENTS REGARDING REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

In the Notice of Allowability of November 30, 2007, the Examiner provides reasons for allowance as set forth on page 5 of the Notice. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's reasons for allowance since they do not address the subject matter of the independent claims as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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